

# CONSUMER PROTECTION



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# News

March 2003 Edition

Dear Wisconsin Children's Safety Advocates:

In February, 2003, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission issued a total of **four (4) recalls relating to products affecting children**. Attached is a summary of the releases identifying the product, problem and what should be done with the recalled product.

We have found that not all of the recalls are picked up by the news media as they occur. This monthly summary will give you the opportunity to review all of the children's product safety recalls for the past month.

If you are interested in a complete text of the recall, double click on the hyperlink at the end of the recall description. This will take you to the CPSC website and the actual recall notice. If you have other product safety questions you may call our toll free number at **(800) 422-7128 and then press "zero" (0) to speak with Product Safety**. You should leave your name, your organization's name and a phone number.

Following is a listing of the 4 "KIDS" recalls by title and identification number:

- ❖ Playnation Play Systems is recalling "Fun Buckets" on Backyard Play Sets. #03-084
- ❖ The First Years® Inc. is issuing New Safety Instructions to Prevent Injuries for Combo Baby Tubs/Step Stools. #03-085
- ❖ The Betesh Group is recalling "Busy Bug" Plush Toys. #03-086
- ❖ Random House, Inc. is recalling Children's Board Book Sets. #03-087

We hope you find this service of value and that it assists you to:

## "KEEP YOUR KIDS SAFE!"

# KEEP YOUR KIDS SAFE

**Release Number:** 03-084 Playnation Play Systems of Kennesaw, Ga., is voluntarily recalling about 1,400 "Fun Buckets," a vinyl bucket attached to a rope used to lift small items up to backyard play sets' forts. This recall involves "Fun Buckets" sold as an add-on option for backyard play sets. The 14-inch-deep buckets are either yellow or green vinyl and have a black nylon strap attached to the rope. The "Fun Bucket" was sold with a heavy wood bracket to attach it to the roof of a play set fort. Distributors of backyard play sets nationwide sold the fun buckets from February 1998 through February 2003 for about \$25.

**Problem:** As children play on the play set's slide or platform, the 6- to 8-ft free-hanging rope can become entangled around the child's neck. This presents a strangulation hazard to young children.

**What to do:** Consumers should take down the "Fun Buckets" immediately and return them to the store where purchased for a refund or a credit toward another product. For more information, consumers can contact Playnation at (770) 792-9300 between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or visit the firm's web site at [www.playset.com](http://www.playset.com).

**Note:** CPSC warns consumers never to allow free-hanging ropes on play sets because of the serious potential for strangulation to children. Any free-hanging rope should be taken down immediately. Consumers should contact CPSC about any such items purchased from a retailer.



- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03084.html>

**Release Number:** 03-084 The First Years Inc., of Avon, Mass., is providing a new instruction sheet for 120,000 "2-In-1 Fold-Away Tub and Step Stools." These "2-In-1 Fold-Away Tub and Step Stools," have model number 3141

written on the underside of the base. The product is a folding baby bathtub that can be used as a step stool for an older child. In the step stool position, the top of the turquoise lid has raised lettering stating "the first years" followed near the bottom of the lid with the two statements, "MAXIMUM LOAD/POIDS MAXIMUM: 200lbs/90kg" and "USE ONLY ON A LEVEL SURFACE. N'UTILISER QUE SUR UNE SURFACE PLANE." In the bathtub position, the seat back has a purple pad. The base and footrest are both white. Also, on the underside of the base is a tiny raised clock showing the year of manufacture of the product (i.e., "9?9") surrounded by the numbers of the clock. Only products bearing date codes 1999 and 2000 ("9?9" or "0?0") are included in this program. Mass merchants nationwide sold these bathtub/stools between January 1999 and February 2002 for about \$17.

**Problem:** When used as a tub, babies' body parts can be pinched if the product's footrest is not fully extended so that it clicks into place firmly.

**What to do:** Consumers should not use the bathtub until they receive revised instructions on the use of the tub to prevent the pinching hazard. Consumers should contact The First Years at (800) 533-6708 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday to receive free revised instructions and a warning label to attach to the product. Consumers can also visit the firm's web site at [www.thefirstyears.com](http://www.thefirstyears.com)



- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03085.html>

**Release Number:** 03-086 The Betesh Group of New York, N.Y., is voluntarily recalling about 11,200 "Busy Bug" plush toys. The recalled toy is a small plush bug with two springy black antennae with orange round fabric ends. The bug has a blue stuffed round face with a red musical nose that blinks when pressed. The body of the bug is segmented in various colors and patterns. Striped elastic legs are attached to the body along with crinkly, iridescent wings. "Smart Scents," and "Made In China" are printed on a label on the side of the bug. The UPC code 778267862920 is on the packaging. Discount department stores sold these recalled toys from August 2002 through January 2003 for about \$7.

**Problem:** The antennae of the plush toy can be chewed or pulled off, posing a choking hazard to young children.

**What to do:** Consumers should take the plush toys away from young children and return to the place of purchase or mail the toy to The Betesh Group at One East 33rd Street, New York, NY 10016, Att: Consumer Relations, to receive a refund including postage. For additional information, contact Betesh toll free at (866) 473-0118 anytime.



- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03086.html>

**Release Number:** 03-087 Random House Inc., of New York, N.Y., is voluntarily recalling about 360,000 children's board book sets. CPSC and Random House have not received any reports of injuries involving these book sets. This recall is being conducted to prevent the possibility of injuries. The boxed sets included in the recall have children's characters on the front of the box, a colored plastic handle and plastic snaps. The book set titles are "MONSTERS TO GO!", "DISNEY PRINCESS - DISNEY THE PRINCESS COLLECTION 2," "DISNEY'S WINNIE THE POOH - A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS," and "BARBIE - MY BARBIE FUN BOX." Each book set contains four board books inside. Only book sets with plastic snaps are included in the recall. Book sets with metal

snaps are not part of the recall. Book, discount department stores and online retailers sold the recalled books nationwide from August 2002 through January 2003 for about \$10.

**Problem:** The book sets were sold in cardboard boxes with plastic snaps. The plastic snaps can detach, posing a choking hazard to young children.

**What to do:** Consumers should immediately cut off the lid of the box with the plastic snaps and throw away the rest of the box. Send the lid with the plastic snaps to Tri-State, c/o Anthony Armetta, 325 Rabro Drive, Hauppauge, NY 11788 to receive a free replacement book set, and a refund for postage. For additional information contact Random House at (800) 805-8534 ET Monday through Friday or visit the firm's web site at [www.randomhouse.com](http://www.randomhouse.com)



- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03087.html>

If you would like to sign up for the Keep Your Kids Safe newsletter, please visit our webpage at <http://datcp.state.wi.us> or contact Michelle Reinen at (608) 224-4988 or [michelle.reinen@datcp.state.wi.us](mailto:michelle.reinen@datcp.state.wi.us). Please be sure to provide your name, telephone number and e-mail address.

If you have any questions or want to file a complaint regarding an unsafe product, contact:

WI Bureau of Consumer Protection,  
Regulation & Safety Section  
1-800-422-7128 (toll free in Wisconsin)  
or (608) 224-4988